

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-08

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:SESTEINER:AJ

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EUR/SOV:RLBARRY

EUR/RPM - PCOLLINS (SUBS)

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

----- 038807

P 162221Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T STATE 063754

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, SU, GW

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF FRG CHARGE ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. FRG CHARGE HANSEN CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN MARCH 12 TO OBTAIN BRIEFING ON STATUS US-SOVIET RELATIONS. HANSEN SAID FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL HAD CABLED INSTRUCTIONS TO OBTAIN SUCH A BRIEFING UPON RECEIVING TELEGRAM FROM FRG EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTING THAT POSTPONEMENT OF SOME US-SOVIET MEETINGS WAS BEING DISCUSSED. HANSEN SAID VAN WELL'S CABLE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF ANGOLA FOR US-SOVIET RELATIONS.

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2. HARTMAN TOLD HANSEN THAT OUR POSTPONEMENT OF US-SOVIET

HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INDICATE CHANGE IN POLICY ON US PART. WE ARE SIMPLY CURTAILING SOME HIGHER VISIBILITY CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIETS, PARTICULARLY AT THE CABINET LEVEL, IN ORDER TO SHOW THAT "BUSINESS AS USUAL" CANNOT PROCEED IN WAKE OF SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE ON ANGOLA. HARTMAN EMPHASIZED THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO INTERFERE WITH OUR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS, WITH NEGOTIATIONS IN TRAIN, AND WITH ECONOMIC RELATIONS SUCH AS THE SALE OF GRAIN.

3. HARTMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE MEETINGS INVOLVED ARE:  
A. MEETING OF JOINT HOUSING COMMISSION WHICH HAD BEEN

UNDER DISCUSSION FOR MAY, AND WHICH WOULD HAVE INVOLVED SECRETARY HILL'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF PROJECTS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE MEETING CAN BE HELD.

B. THE MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION INVOLVING SECRETARY SIMON AND PATOLICHEV WHICH HAD BEEN TENTATIVELY TALKED ABOUT FOR APRIL AND WHICH WE HAVE NOW SUGGESTED COULD "PERHAPS" BE HELD IN SECOND HALF OF YEAR, AND

C. PROPOSED SEAMANS/ZARB MOSCOW VISIT FOR THE MARCH 15 MEETING OF THE ENERGY COMMISSION WHICH WE HAD ALSO SUGGESTED CAN PERHAPS BE HELD IN SECOND HALF OF YEAR. IN THE LATTER TWO CASES THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT TIMING SEEMS INOPPORTUNE. HARTMAN EXPLAINED THAT WORK UNDER BILATERAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WILL CONTINUE AND WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS IN THESE THREE AREAS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE.

4. HARTMAN ADDED THAT THE US-SOVIET OIL TALKS MAY ALSO BE RECESSED AT SOVIET SUGGESTION IN A FEW DAYS. HE SAID THIS WAS UNRELATED TO ABOVE STEPS AND REFLECTED DIFFICULTY IN REACHING AGREEMENT. ALL OTHER NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING THE SALT AND PNE TALKS, WILL CONTINUE.

5. HANSEN ASKED HOW WE ASSESS THE IMPORTANCE OF ANGOLA. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO DRAW DEFINITIVE CONCLUSIONS, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS SIMPLY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION WHERE THEY SAW LITTLE OR NO RISK.

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OUR OWN ACTIONS IN POSTPONING MEETINGS WITH SOVIETS ARE DESIGNED TO ADD SUBSTANCE TO OUR PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON ANGOLA, AND THEY SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS IN MOSCOW IN JANUARY.

6. HANSEN ALSO ASKED WHAT WE WOULD DO IF THERE WERE "ANOTHER ANGOLA," SUCH AS IN RHODESIA OR SOUTH AFRICA. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY. HE EMPHASIZED

HOWEVER, THAT ANY MOVE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CUBA HAS BEEN RULED OUT. HANSEN ASKED IF THIS IS UNDERSTOOD IN LATIN AMERICA, AND HARTMAN REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY. HANSEN ASKED IN CONCLUSION WHETHER WE MIGHT "STEP UP" OUR SIGNALS TOWARD THE SOVIETS. HARTMAN SAID THIS WOULD DEPEND ON FUTURE EVENTS.

7. HANSEN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BRIEFING, WHICH HE SAID FULLY ANSWERS VAN WELL'S REQUEST. HARTMAN POINTED OUT THAT WE ARE PREPARING INSTRUCTIONS FOR USNATO TO PROVIDE A SIMILAR BRIEFING TO THE ALLIES. HE ASKED THAT ENTIRE SUBSTANCE OF BRIEFING BE KEPT IN CONFIDENCE,

HOWEVER, AS WE DO NOT WISH PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF OUR ACTIONS IN POSTPONING THESE US-SOVIET MEETINGS. KISSINGER

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